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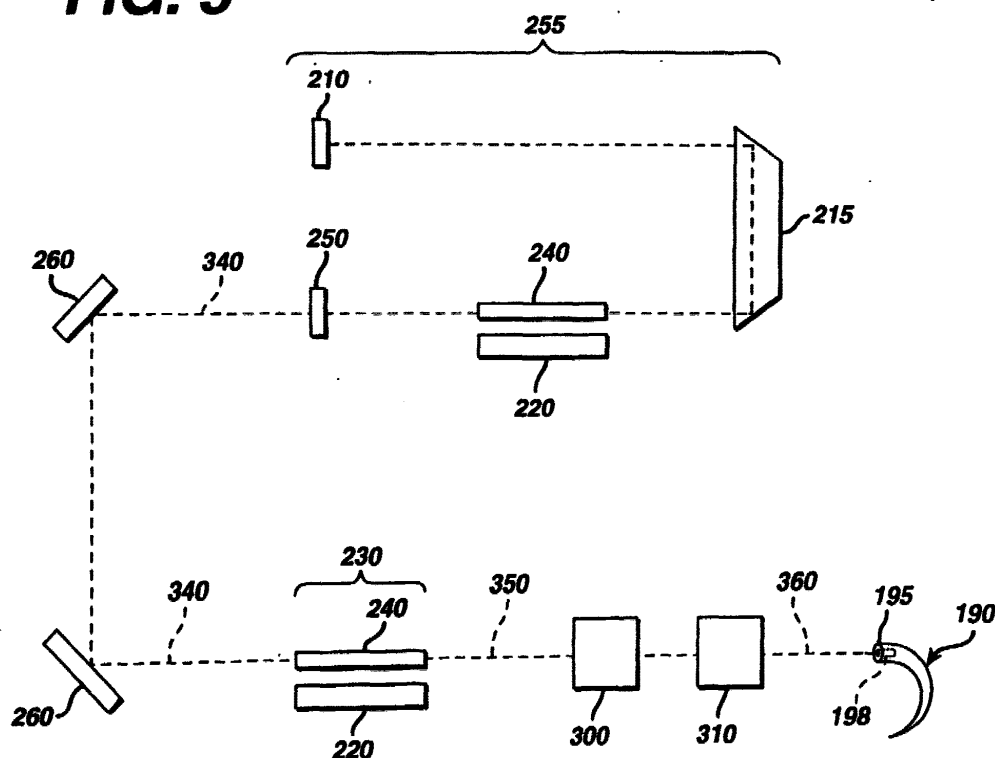
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(54) **Method of forming blind holes in surgical needles using a diode pumped Nd-YAG laser.**

(57) A method of laser drilling surgical needles. The method utilizes a diode pulsed laser to produce a laser beam consisting of a train of high energy pulses.

FIG. 5





European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 30 3450

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
			B23K A61B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 1 October 2002	Examiner Caubet, J-S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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